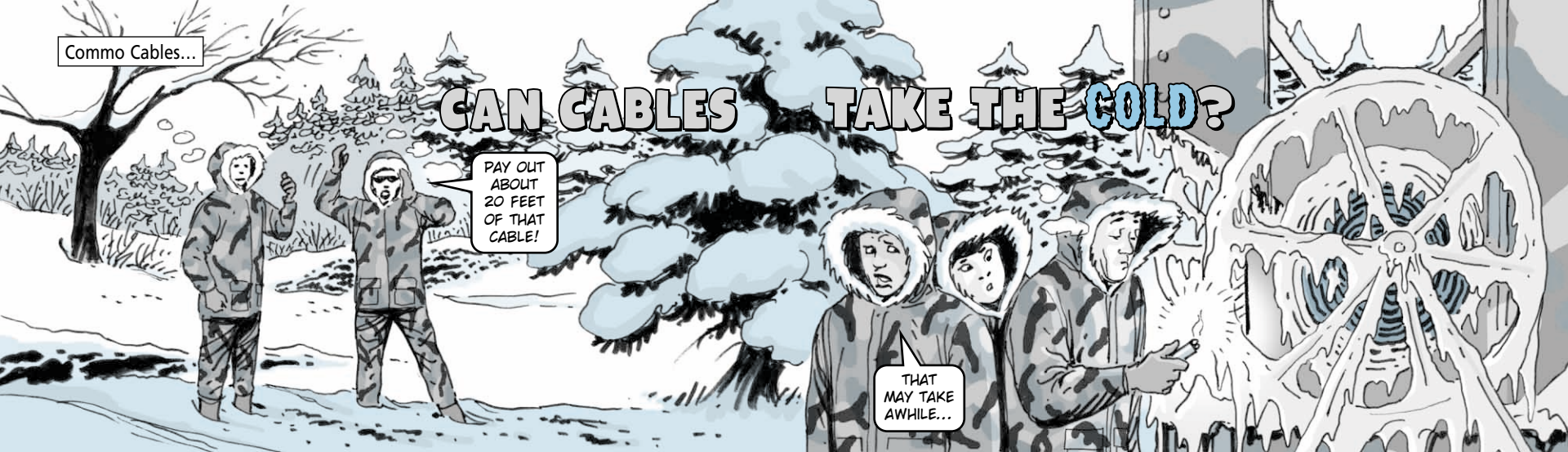


CAN CABLES TAKE THE COLD?



EXTREME COLD IS BRUTAL ON FIELD AND TELEPHONE CABLE.

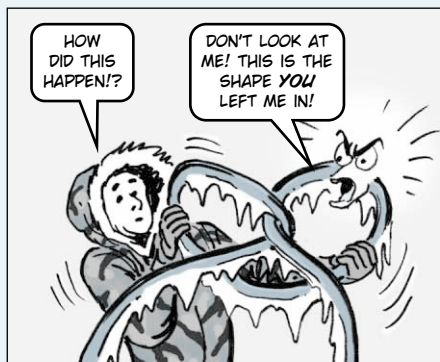
INSULATION TURNS STIFF AND BRITTLE. IT CRACKS AND BREAKS OPEN IF CABLE'S HANDLED TOO ROUGHLY.

ONCE THAT HAPPENS, MOISTURE SEEPS INTO THE WIRE CONDUCTORS AND CAUSES A SHORT.



Certain places on a cable are especially vulnerable to cracking in the cold. These include field ties and splices and kinks and crimps in the line. Low temperatures also shrink and stiffen wire conductors, making them more liable to break.

Not only is cold cable more likely to crack, it's also stiff and harder to handle. A reel of cable may even freeze into its coiled shape.



The remedy for cold cable is a warm shelter and careful handling. Together they protect cable from damage and make it easier to control.

Take tightly coiled cable, unwind it into bigger coils, and store it where it's warm before taking it out in the cold. That'll reduce the risk of a pinch or break.

The same principle goes for cold, stiff cable, too. Before coiling it, warm it up, if possible.



And don't forget to handle cold cable carefully. Slow and easy is the way when you pay out, reel in or flex cable. That helps avoid cracking the insulation.

If you have to splice or repair cable, use TL-600 cold weather tape, NSN 5970-00-685-9059, which comes in a 30-ft roll. This tape holds fast in cold weather and can be used without being warmed up. Most other friction and rubber tapes don't hold as well in extreme cold.

Metal connectors and receptacles shrink in the cold, making cable connections stubborn. Here again, take care when you hook up or unhook cables. Rough stuff invites damage.

